

# THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS  
(Section of the Library Association)

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(Willesden Public Libraries)

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## The Library Assistant ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AMALGAMATION

**I**N view of the fact that 50 per cent. of the members did not vote in the recent ballot on amalgamation with the Library Association, the Council at its recent meeting decided that a new ballot should be taken. Voting papers will be circulated to members within the next fortnight. Members who have the slightest interest in the future of the A.A.L. section are urgently requested to remedy the scandalous apathy displayed at the last ballot.

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In consequence of the resignation of the Hon. Editor, reported to the last meeting of the Council, a by-election becomes necessary. This will be held by show of hands at the meeting of the A.A.L. on 8th January, 1936, at University College. Nominations must be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. James Revie, and must reach him *not later than 16th December, 1935.*

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The next meeting will be held at Southwark Bridge Road Library at 6.30 p.m. on 11th December. This library has recently been reconstructed, and should afford opportunities for all who are interested in planning and organization. Mr. S. Holliday (Hendon) will read a paper entitled "Restrictions." The Chief Librarian of Southwark, Mr. F. Helliwell, has consented to take the chair. The best way of reaching Southwark Bridge Road Library is by Underground to Borough station, which we understand is "just round the corner."

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The joint meeting at Chaucer House on 13th November between the A.A.L. and the London and Home Counties Branch of the L.A. must have been one of the best attended and most ebullient of recent times. The subject was of course "Nationalization," in the form of a discussion opened by Mr. Munford. His opening was mild and balanced enough, though definitely towards a national scheme, and setting out his own views of the form it should take. Hardly had he sat down than a mass attack began. Successive speakers proceeded to show that the ideals of Mr. Munford had no place in the realistic minds of librarians. The grinning spectres of the Board of Education and the Carnegie Trust were held up for the audience to shudder at, and horrifying pictures were drawn of the probable effects of nationalization on salaries, conditions, and efficiency. The

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satisfying vigour of the speeches suggested that there will be no lack of recruits for the barricades if any attempt is made to impose uniformity on us. Later speakers pointed out that Public Libraries existed under far from ideal conditions at present, and that a national scheme need not necessarily mean tyranny, while a few extremists even had a good word to say for the Board of Education. The battle, thus joined on three fronts, raged unchecked until closed by Mr. Bolton of Watford, who summed up the discussion with considerable clarity. Mr. Munford had by then recovered sufficiently to quote *Handley Cross* at his opponents. The meeting closed by passing by a large majority a resolution on outside interference with librarianship. One of the most conspicuous figures of the evening was Mr. Austing, who handled a difficult meeting with great success.

We hope to publish the discussion at this meeting in an early issue in the form of a symposium.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL, 1936

*London*.—Owing to the withdrawal of Mr. B. Oliph Smith, there was no contest on the London side, and the following are therefore elected: Messrs. A. T. Austing; T. I. M. Clulow; R. Cooper; D. E. Coult; J. H. Davies; G. P. Jones; S. W. Martin; W. C. Pugsley; W. B. Stevenson; and Miss E. M. Exley.

*Non-London*.—Mr. V. Woods, 427; Miss M. G. Baker, 320; Mr. J. T. Gillett, 249; Mr. L. A. Burgess, 220; Mr. G. P. Jackson, 187; Mr. W. A. Phillips, 147; Mr. R. L. W. Collinson, 131; Mr. R. E. Birkett, 122; Mr. W. F. Ladds, 55.

The following are therefore elected: Mr. V. Woods; Miss M. G. Baker; Mr. J. T. Gillett; Mr. L. A. Burgess.

Number of members voting, 576. Spoilt papers, 6. Scrutineers: Mr. S. G. Saunders and Miss F. Morris.

### ALDRED'S SEQUEL STORIES

The second edition of Aldred's *Sequel stories*, edited by Mr. W. H. Parker, of Hackney, and published in 1928 by the A.A.L., has been out of print for some time. Mr. Aldred vested the original copyright of this work in the A.A.L. on the understanding that all profits were to be devoted

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to the Association's Benevolent Fund, and the proceeds of the two editions published have added a substantial amount to the Fund.

*Sequel stories* is a much-used tool, particularly at lending-library counters, and enquiries for copies of the book have been received regularly since it went out of print. These enquiries, and the fact that since the last edition many new sequel stories have been published, have induced the A.A.L. Council to prepare a new and revised edition incorporating all new sequel stories that can be traced.

A number of new sequences of novels have been collected by the editor of the second edition, who has promised to hand this information over for inclusion in the third edition. A systematic search through various bibliographies and catalogues of fiction is being organized and publishers' catalogues will also be examined. Unfortunately, many publishers' catalogues neglect to note sequels and the order in which they should be read, and it is certain that many sequels will only be traced by drawing upon the experience of librarians who have noted sequences of stories published since the second edition of Aldred's *Sequel stories* appeared in 1928.

The work of editing the third edition of *Sequel stories: English and American* (to give it the full title), has been entrusted to Mr. Victor Woods, of the Reference Library, Birmingham, 1. Any librarians or assistants who have records of sequels which are not included in the second edition of Aldred's book are asked to send a note of them to Mr. Woods at the above address. In some cases librarians may have recorded sequels as they became known in their own copy of the second edition, and if any of these cannot spare time to make a list of the titles they have added, arrangements to copy the additions will be made if the book can be sent to Mr. Woods for a few days.

If any assistant has a copy of the 1928 edition for sale, Mr. Woods would be glad to be notified. Spare copies are required for working use.

It is hoped that the new edition will be on sale by September of next year.

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It has been suggested that an annual cumulation of *Recommended books* would be of use to libraries for the use of their readers. It would be possible to produce such a pamphlet, with a coloured cover, and additional articles on books, at an approximate cost of 2d. per copy. Any library interested in the proposal should write to the Honorary Editor for further particulars. The publication would only be proceeded with on subscription lines.

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It is to be hoped that library assistants will accept the invitation of Mr. H. F. Brigham, whose second entertaining "Letter to Al" appears in this issue, to ask questions about American librarianship. Any letters for our American correspondent may be sent to the Editor, and will be forwarded immediately.

*Correction.*—The date of the meeting at Deptford in 1936, given as 12th May in last month's LIBRARY ASSISTANT, should have been 13th May.

## AN ASSISTANT'S DIARY

### "SCRIPTOR"

*2nd November.*—Heard this morning from Chief that Committee have refused to prosecute borrower who moved away with book, referred to in this diary a few days ago. They have authorized Town Clerk to write thereto, but if no result from this, to take no further action. Which to me seems a pity, since quite a number of books have been lost in this way lately.

*6th November.*—Much interested in letter from Croydon in this month's ASSISTANT, with regard to Juvenile library. They are in an extremely fortunate position in having enough staff and time at their disposal for this sort of thing, as well as Chief, etc., who, I suppose, encourages it. Know of some libraries where any suggestions for brightening up, and adding interest to, the children's room is immediately squashed as unnecessary and a waste of time. Surely it is impossible to over-estimate the value of making the library really attractive to the child. The child of to-day is the adult reader of to-morrow. That early regard, if really imbibed in youthful days, is bound to remain during the whole lifetime, and will act as a bulwark to those criticisms, and petty oppositions to, public library matters that come to one from time to time. Happy is the library whose Chief and Committee are blessed with such long sight.

*12th November.*—Received this morning quite a batch of letters from Mr. Editor, which was a thing for encouragement in itself, but infinitely more so in reading contents thereof. Greatly pleased that this diary is really being read with interest and so much appreciated. If I am doing some small service to the profession, I am content. Cannot hope to deal with all letters to-day, all of which contain much of interest, but will try to refer to most important points

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day by day. Of much interest is it to hear that the dream sent me by a correspondent last month is so widespread an experience. Four correspondents mention having had it, and also refer to others whom they know have experienced it too. One writer even said that his Chief remembered having it in the days of his youth! Another writer said that, although she had not had that particular dream, often dreamt about the library, and had once dreamt that she had been *promoted* (the italics are mine) to the Town Clerk's office! Did you say, "Shame!" Mr. Editor? Anyhow, she longed to be back at the library again. She also said (I *must* mention it) that she did so enjoy "seeing that Mrs. So and So's got a 'halo' hat, and wondering what she's done to deserve it." Tut, tut, Miss B., is *this* why you love your profession? But Miss B. has her serious suggestions too. She recommends a study of psychology and psychotherapy for counter-assistants. What about it, Mr. Chairman of the Education Committee? I wonder what some assistants would say if this were to be included in the syllabus. But Miss B. manages it on a forty-six hour week, plus examination study!

16th November.—Had two cases this evening of charging-cards sorted in wrong date and wrong order. So wondered if all library staffs are as liable to error as this one, and whether much notice is taken of such mistakes. Very trying when the inability to find borrower's ticket holds up the evening queue. One is sorely tempted to try to discover the perpetrator or to give it hot to all juniors.

To my letters again. Two correspondents refer to Mr. Tighe's letter on the examinations, and ask me my thoughts thereon. Since I myself passed Intermediate stage before the new syllabus arrived, I have no personal views about it, and I have not studied the syllabus from any other standpoint. Am not therefore competent to judge Mr. Tighe's remarks, but am myself looking forward to further correspondence on it. Have also had much support for my national advertisement suggestion, and should be pleased to hear from any others who agree. If more support is forthcoming in any quantity, shall myself have to think of some scheme, perhaps, of putting it into operation. Greatest obstacle seems to me to be the cost—and, perhaps, the L.A. Council!

Would like to quote from another correspondent who writes with regard to ladies who send small children with a request for books. He says, "If this undesired habit were to spread to the community at large, the selection of reading matter would soon be in the hands of the assistant, very often the junior member. This would defeat our aim of educating the public by means of the

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open access system." I heartily agree with him that it should be stopped. Surely small children are not "responsible messengers," and 'tis my experience that, in some mysterious way, the habit does grow very quickly.

20th November.—Borrower asked this morning if two volumes of one work could be taken on one ticket. 'Tis the rule here, however, "one book, one ticket," and so had to refuse. Know of one library that allows up to and including three volumes of one work per ticket if required, and so wondered if many libraries restrict one book to one ticket. Myself agree with the policy of allowing as many books as possible, though there is much to be said for both sides.



## THE NEW CLASSIFICATION<sup>1</sup>

A. D. ROBERTS

THE publication of the schedules of Mr. Bliss's classification is an event of some magnitude, and the scheme merits the perusal of all interested in classification. Since it seems likely that many students will not have access to the volume, and that yet others may not be able to devote much time to studying it, I have attempted a brief and rather superficial analysis of the schedules, and have compared Mr. Bliss's placings of the most controversial subjects with those of the other classifications. For the benefit of those who have not seen the scheme, the heads of the main classes are reproduced below.

The table of main classes show thirty-four heads having a notation of one symbol each. Both figures and letters are used, the former preceding the latter. Those classes having a numerical notation are called "Anterior numerical classes," and are roughly equivalent to the generalia classes of other schemes. Provision is made here for special collections, segregated books, periodicals, bibliography, and library economy, etc. Should a librarian consider that the use of numerals as well as figures for the main classes would be likely to cause confusion, the vacant letter Z might be appropriated, though this alternative is not suggested by Mr. Bliss. The scheme as published in this volume gives the notation to two letters only, though larger marks are obtained by the use of systematic schedules. Detailed criticism of the subdivisions must therefore await the publication of the complete tables. The present

<sup>1</sup> "A System of bibliographic classification," by H. E. Bliss. The H. W. Wilson Company, 1935.

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writer has never attached too much importance to the theoretical explanations, evolutionary and other, adduced in support of other schemes. Suffice it to say here that Mr. Bliss believes that there is an order of the sciences, and that he has tried to reveal it in the order of his main classes. The theoretical basis of his scheme would be elaborated from his Table 2, General Synopsis of the Order of Sciences and Studies. He has given at the top of this synopsis the heads, Philosophy, Science, History, Technologies, and Arts, and this is the usual order he uses to divide any one class. It resembles the Subject Classification inasmuch as the applications of several sciences follow the sciences themselves. There is, however, a residual class, U, Industrial Arts and the less scientific technologies. The principle is not carried so far as in the Subject Classification, and alternatives are provided. One of the features of the scheme is the number of alternative placings allowed. Indeed, a librarian using it would have to spend a good deal of time recording his decisions before marking any books. It will be seen that, compared with the Decimal Classification, Natural Science occupies a much larger area of the base, and that Sociology too has additional space.

Much ingenuity has been used in devising the systematic schedules. Schedule 1 roughly corresponds to Dewey's nine common subdivisions, but there is a striking innovation in its use. A book classified at one of these form divisions is placed *before* the general works on the subject. Schedule 2 is for geographical subdivision, and is practically the only place where lower-case letters are used. These two schedules precede the general tables, while the others are scattered throughout the scheme where they are most relevant.

The main classes are as follows:

- 1 Reading-room Collections, chiefly for reference.
- 2 Bibliography, and Library Science and Economy.
- 3 Select or Special Collection, or Segregated Books, etc.
- 4 Departmental or Special Collections.
- 5 Documents, or Archives, of Governments, Institutions, etc.
- 6 Periodicals.
- 7 Miscellanea.
- 8 Collections of Historic, Local, or Institutional Interest.
- 9 Antiquated Books, or Historic Collection.
- A Philosophy and General Science.
- B Physics.



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- C Chemistry.
- D Astronomy, Geology, Geography, and Natural History.
- E Biology.
- F Botany.
- G Zoology.
- H Anthropology, General and Physical.
- I Psychology.
- J Education.
- K Social Sciences, Sociology, Ethnology, and Anthropogeography.
- L History—Social, Political, and Economic.
- M Europe.
- N America.
- O Australia, East Indies, Asia, Africa, and Islands.
- P Religion, Theology, and Ethics.
- R Political Science.
- S Jurisprudence and Law.
- T Economics.
- U Arts—Useful, Industrial Arts, and the less scientific technology.
- V Fine Arts and Arts of Expression, Recreation, and Pastime.
- W Philology; Linguistics, and Languages other than Indo-European.
- X Indo-European Philology, Languages, and Literatures.
- Y English Language and Literature, and Literature in general, Rhetoric, Oratory, Dramatics, etc.
- Z *Alternative for Religion and Theology.*

In Class 6, Periodicals, it does not seem likely that some of the useful subdivisions in the Library of Congress scheme Class A will be repeated. In Class 7, 71 is Books for the Blind, and there are also places for collections of manuscripts and incunabula. In Class A Mr. Bliss admits the difficulty of classifying the works of individual philosophers and the alternative of arranging them in alphabetical order is offered, particularly for the moderns. The reader will recall the rigid division into tens given in Dewey. Mr. Bliss says of the divisions for Mathematics, also in Class A, that the difficulties being so large, "the captions must be regarded as provisional." AW is Mensuration, including Trigonometry and Surveying. Cutter has the latter subject at GF in geography, and Dewey's place is 526.9. AX is Metrology, and a place is provided for Standards. Weights and Measures head Physics in Cutter and

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the Library of Congress with a place at RC for the metric arts in the former scheme. Class B, Physics, is naturally an advance on the older schemes, logical subdivisions being promised for subjects like the atomic theory and radiation. BJ is Electricity . . . and BM is Electrical Technology and Engineering. Welding is here at BN. As an example of an alternative placing, Hydraulic Engineering may be BR or UJ. Mr. Bliss says, "It is not feasible to classify all applied mechanics, all engineering, and all physical technology with the respective sections of Mechanics and Special Physics, but only those branches that are most closely intertwined with the scientific studies." In Chemistry the usual subdivision for alchemy is not yet indicated. Elements in Organic Chemistry may be arranged by their chemical symbol as at QD in the Library of Congress scheme. This method is also available for small collections in Organic Chemistry. The classified arrangement in the latter class was made with some regard to the standardized system of Beilstein's *Handbuch*, modified with some regard to the works of Richter and others. The scheme for Organic Chemistry in the Brussels expansion of Dewey was based on Meyer and Jacobsen. Mr. Bliss deprecates the division of special chemistry into inorganic and organic. Mineralogy and Crystallography are here at CH, with an alternative place in geology. Two special systematic schedules apply to this class, viz. Schedule 6 for sub-classification under Special Chemistry (CI-CR) and Schedule 9 for sub-classification under Chemical Industries. Provision is made for the arrangement of Special Chemical Industries in alphabetical order at CU.

Class D contains what are really several small main classes. Astrology does not appear in the index, nor is a place indicated as yet. Geology follows the section devoted to the Earth in Astronomy. DT, Regional Geography, covers Arctic and Antarctic Expeditions. Meteorology, Natural History, and Microscopy all have places here. Palæontology is at EP in Biology, which can be contrasted with its place at QE 701 in the Library of Congress scheme. The main place for Bacteriology is at FV in Botany. HC Anthropological Somatology will include places for finger prints and craniology. HH, Hygiene, HK, Play, Games, and Sports, HL, Recreation, and HM, Medicine, conclude this class. The placing of sports here resembles the Subject Classification where Athletic Sports is H 720. The Recreative Arts are in Class G in the Library of Congress scheme, but horse-racing is with Animal Culture, SF, and Angling is at SH. Brown curiously placed the latter subject at I 730 in

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In Class I the usual form divisions 1-9 are not used, to avoid confusion between the letter I and the figure 1. Psychology and Education have both attained the status of a main class, the former being divorced for the first time in modern schemes from Philosophy. The psychology of childhood is near to educational psychology. The form classes occupy a large part of Education, and are allotted the first four literal divisions as well as the numerical ones. JJ includes the teaching of special subjects; they may be classified or arranged alphabetically. We are told, however, that the teaching of some subjects, e.g. Art, Music, Dramatics, etc., may best be subordinated to the subjects. There is an alternative place for Libraries at JV. The form classes have spread into the first six literal classes of History. The general method of using the tables in these classes is to classify the books first by the geographical area covered and then to apply a mark from one of the three systematic schedules, 3, 3a, or 3b. By this method we have grouped at each country, not only the history, and the geography, topography, and description, but also the diplomatic, political, constitutional, financial, ecclesiastical, military, and naval histories. MP is the Netherlands, MP-3 is travel in the Netherlands, MP-E is economic history of the Netherlands, MP-J is societies and institutions in the Netherlands, and so on. Proper alternatives are provided for several of these aspects, and a special section is allotted to the U.S.A., freeing it from the use of the systematic schedules. Classical Philology is subsumed under the History of Greece and Rome. Philately is under Numismatics here in History—it was B 630 in Brown. LG, General History, is followed by a section for the Hebrews, LH. Alphabetical arrangement is suggested at several places, e.g. OD, Polynesia, for the islands, and ON, Provinces and States of India. The alternative of arranging all biography together is given at L9, "but the better alternative for well-classified libraries would be to distribute the biography of special interest under the special subjects." Mr. Bliss has many interesting remarks on this subject, but we cannot go into details. The question is also dealt with at V4, Biography of Artists, and elsewhere. For the general public library alphabetical order will probably always be the most practical, unless an exception be made for large reference libraries. It will be remembered, too, that Cutter advocated the classification of Biography, while Brown opposed it.

The subdivisions allotted to Religion are likely to meet with criticism. The heading PJ, Christian Religion, Theology, and Ethics, Christianity, begins with the life of Jesus, striking a particularly modern note. The ecclesiastical

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history of any country goes with that country in History. PW, Religious Service and Ministry, is separated from the divisions for Christianity by the Non-Christian Religions and Sects. No place is specifically mentioned for sermons, nor is it in the index. Religious readers in a general library are a fairly homogeneous group, and would probably be annoyed at finding their subject so scattered. The Library of Congress alphabetical order for sects is not repeated. Unemployment has a place in Class Q as well as in Economics. QT, Societies and Clubs, etc., may be arranged in alphabetical order. QW, Women, which Cutter had at KW in Legislation, is followed by QX, Socialism, and QY, Internationalism, leading to Class R. This is a wise innovation. Class R covers many more subjects than Dewey's class 320. Governments, Legislatures, the Judiciary and the Courts, Administration and International Law are all placed here. Certain sections of Administration are elsewhere under State Economics, Public Finance, etc. The Army, Navy, and Air Force may be here or in Class U. RP is Police and other protective services not military, and includes life-saving and fire protection. In T, Economics, TJ is Business, and includes many of the subjects in Dewey's class 650. TK is Special Business and alphabetical order is indicated. Railways do not appear likely to be so well divided as they are in the Library of Congress scheme. UX in the Useful Arts is for the Household Arts, and includes cookery, which Cutter had at QRL under Medicine. Industries not classified are arranged alphabetically. Printing is VT in the Fine Arts; Cutter placed this in his Book Arts, Class Z, and Brown's place was M 800. Landscape gardening still has a traditional place in the Fine Arts away from the main gardening section. VH, Ceramics, is between VG, Plastic Arts, and VJ, Graphic Arts, since it has relations with both those classes.

In Literature there are four alternatives offered for the arrangement of works in the various forms and those about their authors. Briefly these are as follows:

1. Alphabetical order throughout, e.g. Shakespeare's plays and poetry together, all Hardy's novels, poetry, plays, etc., together. There are various alternatives for biography, criticism, and collections.
2. Historical classification throughout. Writings, criticism, and biography, individual and collective, under their period, forms ignored.
3. Method 1 for the modern literature, Method 2 for the early periods.
4. Classify by forms. Biography and criticism with the history of the literature. The early writers may be treated as in Method 3.

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"As regards modern individual authors under Methods 1, 3, and 4, it seems best to arrange all modern English writers of whatever countries . . . in one alphabet of surnames." Mr. Bliss concludes a short discussion of the classification of fiction by saying that "on the whole it is inadvisable." There is no fixed rule laid down for translations, but we are invited to classify Pope's "Homer" in English literature. Several systematic schedules apply here. Schedule 4 is for the subdivision of any language; Schedule 5 is a larger one, and can be applied to the chief literary languages which have three divisions each, and Schedule 6 is for sub-classification under an author. Students of bibliography might compare this with other published arrangements. English is exempt from these schedules, having divisions of its own in Class Y. Cutter's method of separating American literary history and collections from those of England is wisely not followed. Under each language in these classes the philology precedes the actual literature.



## EXHIBITION

### HUGH MORETON

THE *Sunday Times* Book Exhibition grows each year, both in quantity and in quality. I visited the first two years ago, and some notes upon it appeared in these pages. Memories of that come crowding in. I remember saying then it was impossible to give more than an impression from one short afternoon's visit. If that was true then, it is trebly true this year. Two years ago it was obvious that a first attempt at such an exhibition was being made. This year one is made to feel that they are old hands at the game. One can feel the smoother and more co-operative organization, and the publicity and patronage in high places are very great.

One first sees the Stands of the Allied Trades arranged round the working exhibits of every step in book production, from the setting-up of the type to the gold-blocking on the binding. There is a monotype setter and caster, a Wharfedale printing machine, and both hand and machine binding. Among the accompanying Stands one could see the processes of lithographic and collotype illustrations, offset and half-tone processes, ranges of Croyley Mill papers, and book-cloths by Winterbottom's. This was perhaps, to us at any rate, the most interesting part of the show.

Now for the exhibition itself. One of my greatest impressions was the improved quality in the designing, taken as a whole, of book-jackets, coupled

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with the fact that more publishers are beginning to realize that well-produced books have a more aristocratic appearance without their jackets. But there were still far too many jackets. An up-to-date window-dresser was needed at most Stands. Some of them reminded one of those pre-war suburban haberdashery shop-windows we still see sometimes, where every available cubic inch is occupied by inartistically arranged garments. Book-jackets could have been used more sparingly and with greater effect.

I remarked two years ago on the growing number of pocket editions available. And now there seem to be more than ever, and the quality of practically all of them is very high for the price. One thinks of the five-shilling and half-crown editions of Macmillans, the florin books, the new Everyman style, and the Windmill and Grove editions of Cape's. I would like to mention specially the five-shilling leather bindings by Jonathan Cape. These are quarto size, and seem as strong and durable as any library binding, if not more so. And their appearance is really aristocratic.

The greatest "feature" of the exhibition was the Classified Library of Living Books. This was interesting, if somewhat surprising by some of the omissions and inclusions. For instance, the Children's section catered for those up to sixteen years of age, and included such books as the Father Brown stories, Sapper's *The Lost horizon*, *The First hundred thousand*, which one would hardly expect "children" to appreciate fully. Among the Reference books were also included some Baedeker's and Blue guides. Some of the important omissions, to me, were: no books on Test matches or Jack Hobbs's life in the cricket section; none of Morton's books in the Topography section, and not that most impartial and unadorned book, Jackson's *The Post-War world*, in the World To-day section.

Well, it seems that I have done as much, if not more, criticizing than anything. But there was much to praise, and I may have found more of it, perhaps, could I have stayed longer. One always sees first that which one does not agree with, both in books and people. I came away with the feeling that here was something worth while, and something which will become, year by year, more worthy of its object—"to present as a whole the picture of current publishing." It may not mean much to public libraries at present, but may it not be a first step in the development of that "book-consciousness" that we all desire to see in the mind of the whole people?

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### "DEAR AL"—II

HAROLD F. BRIGHAM

DEAR AL,—

A second Epistle to the Britanniains seems to be permissible as long as the first enjoyed a generous reception beyond its due.

Our friend the "Hon. Ed." announced with regret in the September LIBRARY ASSISTANT that the correspondence columns had been "unusually bare of late," and suggested "our younger readers, especially, seem extraordinarily inarticulate."

This suggested to my mind the possibility of persuading an occasional reader, at least, to put some questions about the American scene which I might attempt to answer. Such questions may or may not appear in the correspondence columns of this journal, but, whether addressed to the editor or to your correspondent directly, they would aid materially in determining topics in which British librarians are really interested. This would be a most welcome stimulant from my point of view.

Speaking of "our younger readers," one of the fairest and brightest of the younger librarians in this country<sup>1</sup> presented a brilliant paper before one of the general sessions of the recent annual conference of the A.L.A. in Denver, Colorado. Her subject was, "Speaking for the younger generation." Among the suggestions brought out were the following: the younger generation ask for "more aggressiveness and less timidity" in the profession. They ask that "enthusiasm be made stylish." They regret that so many chief librarians give their staff the impression of distance from them and their problems. They decry "bureaucracies" in which department heads make all decisions without giving juniors any opportunity to voice opinions and help to arrive at decisions; they advocate staff associations in individual libraries with opportunity for expression by junior members.

Then, after voicing these telling but apt criticisms, the sagacious spokesman for the rising generation concluded, perhaps a little artfully, "The younger librarians often need and can take in good part criticism from you who are older." She quoted at this point from a letter that must be quoted again here to complete the story.

The letter in question must have come from an elder to the younger advocate while she was preparing her paper. It egged her on in the following forthright language:

<sup>1</sup> Aubry Lee Hill, *Librarian of the Public Library, New Rochelle, N.Y.*

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"I'm still thinking about your younger generation. I don't know what I said in a previous letter, but here's what I say now: if you have the blood, and iron and sand in you, we can't keep you down, even if we should want to, and God knows some of us at least don't want to. But what some of you lack is unselfish idealism—you are so damnably ego-centric—and you lack humane tolerance and understanding of imperfections, which will give you the patience and ability to work yourselves to the top of a difficult situation instead of blowing up. And you lack equanimity, and personal enthusiasms and skills which would entitle you to rate as individuals. You are bright little moderns who see no need for Emerson, William James, and Montaigne, now that you have the "New Yorker," and for whom there is no Chippendale nor Sheraton—only Norman Bel-Geddes, whoever he is. But I feel sorry for you for two reasons—you were born in the midst of a world tornado, and at best your generation is going to fall devilishly far short of the marvelous opportunities for work in a new world.

P.S.—"You lack ballast, too, and you lack patina."

Such a letter is a good physic, do you not agree? It stimulates frank self-appraisal. It lays down a barrage of healthy challenges.

But "patina"! Did it register with you, without benefit of dictionary? I must say it did not with me, but it was too intriguing to pass by. The word denotes the discoloration, a green sort of rust, which forms on old bronzes or coins after long exposure to the air. The present use of the word is apparently meant to picture the younger generation as lacking that protective "crust" which naturally develops with prolonged exposure to the elements. But your guess is as good as mine.

What is the significance of all this? To me, at any rate, it means that the younger librarians should have every opportunity for self-expression and professional development through broad and active participation in the affairs of the profession, both local and national. They have much to gain from the experience and advice of older librarians, but it is probable that the older generation has failed, as perhaps always, in recognizing and fulfilling its obligations to the younger.

It is good advice from any generation to any other not to use small slips of paper for memoranda of any importance. They can never be filed successfully, and whether filed or not, they always succeed in disappearing, as by magic, just like the slip on which I had listed some carefully chosen topics for consideration in drafting this letter.:



## The Library Assistant

I recall the most important topic, however, and will let it conclude the epistle. It is the National Library Objectives of the United States.

In October the Kentucky Library Association was honoured in having as its principal conference speaker the Secretary of the American Library Association, Mr. Carl H. Milam (with whom I expect to enjoy a fishing excursion in a few days).

Mr. Milam presented to the conference the major library objectives which are to be discerned in this country. They are the fruits of post-war developments and post-depression planning (to be optimistic about the passing of the depression). They are the objectives which the states individually and collectively are striving to achieve to-day in the face of tremendous economic handicaps.

I will attempt to reproduce these national objectives in the fewest words possible, giving merely a classified enumeration of them, with a few added phrases or statements designed to suggest their meaning.

### I. OBJECTIVES DEALING WITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EXTENSION

1. *Regional Libraries.*—A plan for extending rural public library service in poorer districts where individual counties cannot support an independent library service, but where two or more counties can combine to form a regional library system.

2. *State and Federal Aid.*—Financial aid from the State Government to counties and municipalities is generally accepted as a necessary factor in the extension of rural public library service; supplementary aid from the Federal Government to the State Governments for the same purpose has gained increasing acceptance as an objective in the last three years.

### II. OBJECTIVES DEALING WITH IMPROVEMENT OF PERSONNEL

1. *High Standards of Education and Training.*—Emphasis is placed on higher education in degree-conferring institutions, and on professional training in accredited library schools, most of these identified also with colleges and universities.

2. *Certification of Librarians.*—State systems for the legal certification of librarians, similar to existing systems for the certification of public school teachers, are advocated to raise standards, and to prevent the future appointment of unqualified people to library positions. A number of states have

## The Library Assistant

voluntary, rather than legal, certification, administered by the State Library Association.

3. *Adequate Salaries.*—A proposal to raise traditionally low library salaries to a level commensurate with the standards of education and training required for this professional service.

4. *Provision for Retirement.*—A recognized economic and social necessity affecting both librarians and libraries. The American Library Association put into operation in 1933 a sound national library retirement system administered and underwritten by a large insurance company with provisions for employees and employers to share the costs.

### III. OBJECTIVES DEALING WITH METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

1. *A Federal Library Agency.*—A proposal to establish a governmental library bureau in Washington, not for inspection and dictation, but as a clearing-house for information, study, and advice (as the present U.S. Office of Education serves schools).

2. *Integration of Library Service and Teaching.*—A recognition of the need of relating libraries more closely with schools at all levels of education.

3. *Co-operation in the Interest of Research,* involving the development of special collections, union catalogs, and exchange of books between libraries.

4. *Co-operation in the Interest of Adult Education.*—Recognition of the important part libraries play in adult education, both the formal or classroom type, and the informal or non-classroom type, and the need of co-operative effort in this field of library development.

### IV. OBJECTIVE DEALING WITH THE PROMOTION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

1. *More Citizen Participation.*—Having the aim of enlisting the active interest and support of trustees, patrons, and friends of libraries in efforts to extend and improve library services of all kinds.

Such are the national objectives of American libraries to-day. I am afraid an English interpretation of my statement of these objectives will fail in some instances to comprehend the American idea, because of differences in terms and library conditions in the two countries, and because of the very condensed version I have given. But I trust this statement will be essentially understandable, and will give British readers a bird's-eye view of the New Library Scene that is taking form in America to-day.

## The Library Assistant

I shall be looking forward with much interest to the results of your vote on the Amalgamation proposals.

Your friend,  
HAL  
(HAROLD F. BRIGHAM).

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY,  
2nd November, 1935.

## OUR LIBRARY

*Fieldfaring*, by Stanley Snaith. (*Centaur Poets Series*.) Boards, pp. 32. Nelson, 2s. 6d.

"There is to-day in England no young poet deserving pen and paper who is not indebted by more or less to Eliot's work."

SO writes a recent critic. If this be true, then Mr. Snaith is no true poet, for the reader may search *Fieldfaring* and its four predecessors through from cover to cover and find not a trace of Eliot. But such a statement must be dismissed. It implies too much. What is more important for Mr. Snaith is to leave traces of Snaith in his work, and in his new volume he does this with a sureness and emphasis which will delight those who are already acquainted with his work, and surprise newcomers.

*Fieldfaring* is Mr. Snaith's best book so far. The many good poems in the *Silver scythe* and *North* were thrown into prominence by some that fell below the standard of permanence which every well-read lover of poetry has in his mind; but in this new book there is a general level of success which implies a steady, perceptive confidence, and a sureness of technique. True, one is still occasionally let down by the deliberate bathos of last lines, but even this idiosyncrasy is disappearing. The whole volume is the result of an observant eye, a sensitive mind capable of a rich transmutation, and a personal feeling for the individual beauty of words.

F. S. S.

## THE DIVISIONS

### NORTH-EAST DIVISION

A MEETING of the Division was held at Gateshead on Wednesday, 16th October, by invitation of Mr. R. Lillie, F.L.A., Borough Librarian.

The members assembled at the Central Library, where they were received by Mr. Lillie. After an informal inspection of the library, the visitors

## The Library Assistant

proceeded to the Shipley Art Gallery, where the meeting was held. The Chairman, Miss W. C. Donkin, F.L.A., presided, and was supported by the President of the A.A.L.—Mr. W. E. Hurford.

The speaker at this session was Mr. J. Revie, F.L.A., Secretary of the L.A. and A.A.L. Committee for Amalgamation. Naturally, he dealt with the proposed fusion of the two Associations. This was followed with a short discussion, and the members got an opportunity of having any doubts and fears either completely eradicated—or strengthened.

The Chairman of the Gateshead Public Libraries Committee, Mr. H. F. Fallaw, J.P., welcomed the members as his guests to tea. The thanks of the members was accorded to Mr. Fallaw by Miss Donkin, and rapturously supported by those present, to whom Mr. Fallaw is by no means simply a Chairman, but a staunch advocate of many years standing.

At the evening session the Curator of the Shipley Art Gallery, Mr. M. Young, gave a discourse on "The Relations of libraries, museums, and art galleries."

In the course of a very racy talk the speaker showed, with interest, the interdependence of one with another.

The Division's thanks to those who had contributed to the successful meeting, at which 85 members were present, was given by Mr. E. Pearson, F.L.A., and Mr. J. S. Swan.

### KENT LIBRARY GUILD

A meeting was held at Canterbury on Wednesday, 9th October, when Mr. J. Dent, of Dover, read a paper outlining the Amalgamation proposals and objecting to certain of them. Among the proposals objected to were the increased subscription for those on the Register receiving less than £150 per annum, the number of national councillors in excess of the more truly representative branch councillors, and the discontinuance of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT, whose place would not adequately be taken by the Students' Section of the RECORD.

After much discussion a resolution was passed expressing approval of the principle of amalgamation, and of the recommendations except on the points mentioned.

A resolution was also passed:

"That as section 22, Temporary Regulations of the Syllabus of Professional Examinations, clearly implies that candidates holding certificates in

## The Library Assistant

Classification or Cataloguing are already admitted to the Intermediate Examination, in so far as they are considered as having passed one part of it, section 6 is redundant so far as such candidates are concerned, and that until the ambiguity is removed from the syllabus, the Library Association should be requested to allow members to sit for the remaining part of the Intermediate if they hold one of the sectional certificates named above, and are exempted from or have passed the Elementary Examination."

The next meeting of the Guild will be held at Dover on 8th January, 1936.

### NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION

MEETING AT COLNE, TUESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 1935

A meeting of the North-western branch of the Library Association and the North-western Division of the A.A.L. was held at Colne on Tuesday, 8th October, 1935. The delegates were welcomed by the Mayor (Councillor J. W. Greenwood, J.P.), and the Chairman of the Public Library Committee (Councillor A. D. Bailey).

A paper, entitled "Library publicity," was read by Miss Hilda McGill, of the Manchester Public Libraries, and her remarks contained some striking observations. "Our bodies," she said, "we share with the lesser beasts; our minds alone give us authority. As librarians we probably believe in books and maintain that to read with intelligence is to increase our wisdom. At the lowest estimate, if books lose their appeal we lose our jobs. Our bread and butter is engaged. We cannot attract the errant public into our doors without a certain amount of publicity."

"Libraries will continue to give ground before the advances of their rivals if librarians do not revise their attitude. Publicity is what we need. Half the public has not heard of us, some imagine houses of learning too austere for them, some consider us a sort of doss-house rivalling the benches in the park as a resort for the homeless. Quite a number, from snobbery, will not borrow from a Public Library because it is free—it is, therefore, inferior to them. We don't like the thought of advertising, but advertise we must, and advertising we shall be in a few years, unless we want to fall behind completely."

She said further that she was afraid that quite a number of librarians honestly thought that people were driven into public libraries as a last resort. As soon as somebody opened a twopenny library the public library must, metaphorically speaking, "throw up the sponge"; an attitude which she denounced as "bunk" and dangerous bunk too.

## The Library Assistant

She advocated a National advertising scheme on the lines of the G.P.O. or the Empire Marketing Board to make the public aware of libraries, and other suggestions were put forward in an interesting discussion which followed.

After the Conference the delegates, of whom there were about 60 present, were entertained to tea, where a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Mayor, the Library Committee, and the Town Council for their hospitality, and to Mr. Biggs and his staff for the preparation for the gathering, to which the Mayor suitably responded.

### MIDLAND DIVISION

The proposals for the amalgamation of the Library Association and the A.A.L. Section were the subject of an expository address by Mr. James Revie, A.L.A., at a meeting held on 23rd October, 1935, at Acock's Green Branch Library, Birmingham, under the auspices of the Joint Committee of the Birmingham and District Branch of the Library Association and the Midland Division of the A.A.L.

The speaker sketched the history of the A.A.L. and the developments in the re-organization of the Library Association which have led to the enunciation of the present proposals. He gave an admirably clear account of the necessarily complicated suggestions which have been devised to bring about a real unification of the two bodies, and answered various queries which were raised by members of the audience.

It is perhaps not surprising that, in a district where the two bodies have worked in close association under a Joint Committee for a number of years, there was no evidence of opposition to the proposals, and there seems little doubt that members of the Midland Division will vote solidly for their acceptance.

## CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
PRESTON, LANCs.  
1st November, 1935.

HON. EDITOR,  
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.  
DEAR SIR,—

I am unaware of what kind, or where, the public library is which avails itself of "Scriptor's" services. It is evident, however, if one is to judge by the description of the "occasion to cause dissatisfaction to a lady borrower,"

## The Library Assistant

that its methods were evolved at some period not very much later than the time when the writer whose prose he imitates was living, and have been adhered to strictly ever since. I assume that, since it possesses a deputy as well as a "Chief," it cannot be a *very* small library, and is also the central library of the authority concerned.

What then is "Scriptor" doing, attending to two counters and (presumably) an enquiry window, by himself, during the lunch-hour on Saturday, the busiest day of the week? What were the other members of the staff doing that they could not only relieve "Scriptor" while he supplied the messenger with two books, but help him to dispose of the queue? If there is no staff beside "Scriptor," why could not the Chief or the Deputy help him out at the counter. Had they both gone to lunch together (horrible thought) and left "Scriptor" to do the best he could in their absence? Yet, even if "Scriptor" was holding the fort alone, I contend that the plea of keeping people waiting is insufficient justification for refusing to take a minute or two to select two books from those just returned, in order to supply the messenger. Failing that, could he not have asked the messenger to wait a minute or two until rid of the queue?

I suppose, if a borrower had asked "Scriptor" where the book on a particular subject were shelved, or some similar question, he would have refused to supply the information or show him where the books were on account of being too busy, instead of obtaining relief for a few minutes?

Finally, "Scriptor" urges libraries to make their public "library conscious" by more advertisement. I should respectfully suggest that, before he starts advertising, either to wait till they have more staff, or staff hours are re-organized. Until such time it would appear that the "Scriptor Public Library" is not in a position to serve adequately the people who are already library conscious in that district, without advertising for more.

Yours faithfully,

WALTER W. YEATES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
COLCHESTER.  
1st November, 1925.

THE EDITOR,  
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTION

DEAR SIR,—

The joint letter against Government inspection which appeared in your last issue shows that that problem is of some urgency.

## The Library Assistant

It seems fairly clear that some form of national supervision should be applied to the service, to ensure, for example, the development of backward areas, and to control such matters as advertising.

But, so far from increasing interference by public authorities, I submit, we ought rather to endeavour to throw off such interference as we now endure. I suggest—it is drastic, I admit—that we should as far as possible weaken Local Government control and become in matters of policy and organization autonomous.

National control would not mean the loss of a library's individuality if such control were exercised by librarians. Could not a committee of the Library Association be set up to organize and co-ordinate the service? If that Committee did its job, would not inspection of any kind be unnecessary?

The distrust of librarians as public officials and the consequent loss of self-respect implied by inspection could be avoided if present librarians and assistants—who are the librarians of the future—made a determined effort to kill such defeatist talk as this of Government control; if they conquered the dreary "sense of professional dignity" which prevents many from speaking their minds; and if, by co-operation and planning *inside the profession* they made the library service virile and efficient—and themselves respected.

Yours sincerely,

LEWIS A. HALSEY.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY LIBRARY.  
MORPETH.

HON. EDITOR,  
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

DEAR SIR,—

The recent letter of your correspondent, Mr. Tighe, has again brought up the ever-existing problem of examinations. I agree with him that the difference between the standards of the Elementary and Intermediate examinations is too great, but when he deplores the difficulty of the Intermediate examination, it brings to my mind the suggestion that most of us have forgotten what the status of a professional examination is. I know no other profession in which a time limit is not specified, and we find many assistants bemoaning the fact that they have failed the Intermediate examination after a



## The Library Assistant

few months' study! All professional examinations are difficult. They must be, or they would be worthless, and eighteen months' study for ours is not too long.

On the subject of the syllabus, a division of the Intermediate examination into two parts has been suggested. Would this have a good effect? Cataloguing and classification must be studied together to serve any useful purpose, and their separation must lead to less practical efficiency which the examiners look for. This was the fault of the old syllabus—why go back to it?

It is my belief that the present syllabus has been drawn up with an eye to practical efficiency and a safeguarding of the interests of our profession.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. FREDERICK JOHNSON.

PUBLIC LIBRARY,

CANNING TOWN, E.16.

12th November, 1935.

HON. EDITOR,

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

DEAR SIR,—

May I endorse the general opinions on the L.A. examinations set out by Mr. Tighe in last month's ASSISTANT?

The examination syllabus certainly needs revising. At present the Intermediate examination cuts through the sequence of the Elementary and Final subjects, and it forms in itself the final examination in Classification and Cataloguing. As the syllabus now stands, students have to abandon the fascinating study of Literature commenced in the Elementary examination, whilst the dreary process of cramming rules for the Intermediate goes on. If these people are lucky enough to pass ("luck" is the term used to-day) they have to pick up the threads of Literary History which may have survived.

I would suggest that the revision should take these lines:

*Elementary*.—Classification and Cataloguing; Literary History; Administration.

*Intermediate*.—As above, but more advanced.

*Final*.—Some opportunity for specialization.

In the future, too, an attempt should be made to study the student's point

## The Library Assistant

of view, and to realize his difficulties. At present he is hampered by a number of things:

- (a) Lack of text-books—those available are often contradictory.
- (b) Lack of suitable tuition—most students have to rely on correspondence courses, which are a poor substitute for oral classes.
- (c) Lack of sufficient copies of the 13th edition of Dewey at the Classification examination—it is a matter of luck which edition you get.
- (d) Loose application in practice of the A.L.A. Code, with its resultant confusion.

Evidently the examiners themselves suffer from this lack of uniformity if we judge by the practical examples set at the Classification examinations in 1934. In these papers some of the titles have the first word of an article capitalized and others do not. In *THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT* for November, the review of Pafford's *Library co-operation* gives the paging as pp. 354, whereas it should read 354 pp. according to the rules.

Assistants are disheartened, as Mr. Tighe says, by reason of the small percentage of passes, and there is a feeling growing that the Association is imposing in this way a deliberate limit on the number of Fellowships granted.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN H. I. CABLE.

HAYES BRANCH LIBRARY,  
GOLDEN CRESCENT,  
HAYES.  
31st October, 1935.

THE EDITOR,  
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.  
DEAR SIR,—

In common with many other members of the A.A.L., I have found that private study and correspondence courses do not necessarily spell success in the Intermediate examination. I have been greatly helped by the Librarianship classes now being held at Spring Grove Polytechnic, and particularly by the efforts of Mr. Hill, of Willesden, to make the classes of real help.

I think that these classes deserve to be more widely known as there must be many London library assistants who would welcome instruction in those difficult arts of classification and cataloguing.

Yours faithfully,

D. H. HARMER.

## The Library Assistant

### NEW MEMBERS

**CENTRAL.**—William A. G. Allison (Edinburgh); Elsie G. Brown (Paddington); Eveline M. Butler (Ealing); Elsie V. E. Cording (Chiswick); R. J. Gayler, J. F. Mason, R. P. Matthews (Enfield); William K. Maidment, S. Sumpter (Essex County, Chingford); Janet McC. Martin, Mary A. P. Milligan (Bristol); Mary M. Napier (Dunfermline).

**Midland.**—Marie Jones (Tunstall Branch, Stoke-on-Trent).

**North-eastern.**—Herbert H. Douglass (Birtley); Miss L. Shepherd (Thornaby-on-Tees); John Smeaton (Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

**North-western.**—F. G. Learoyd (Wallasey); Wilfred M. Spencer (Colne).

**Yorkshire.**—Geoffrey C. Lenthwaite (Leeds).

**South-western.**—John M. Pechell (Eastleigh).

**RESIGNATIONS.**—Miss J. Graham (Gateshead); Miss D. Joel, Miss M. B. Pickering (Leeds); Miss D. Thackray (Hendon); Miss E. Willey (Bradford); Miss E. Wood (Newcastle).

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### BRANCH ORGANIZATION

(a) Branch organizations, not to exceed twelve in number, shall be established, covering the whole of Great Britain and Ireland. (A Schedule of suggested Branches is appended to these Recommendations: Appendix A.)

(b) On or before the appointed day all agreements with existing Branches shall be terminated and all certificates withdrawn.

(c) Each Branch shall comprise all members of the Library Association, honorary, personal and institutional, and corresponding, who reside or are employed within that Branch area.

(d) No member shall belong to more than one Branch. Individual persons, not being professional librarians, residing in the Branch, may become local members and shall pay such subscription as shall from time to time be fixed by the Council of the Association. They shall be permitted to participate only in local affairs and may not vote for the Branch Committee nor hold office.

(e) Members shall elect by ballot (i) their Branch Committee, (ii) the National Councillors, (iii) the Branch Councillors.

(f) The Chairman of the Branch Committee shall be elected by ballot of the Committee after receipt of written nominations from the Committee.

(g) The members belonging to each branch shall adopt a standard constitution to be drawn up by the L.A. Council.

(h) Every year each Branch shall submit an audited statement of accounts of the past year, accompanied by the necessary vouchers, and estimates for the next year, to the L.A. Finance Committee for approval.

(i) Branch Committees may include in their annual estimates a sum equivalent to the full third-class rail fare, at the lowest rate available, for the attendance of all the members of the Committee, at two Committee meetings annually, such sum to be expended on the travelling expenses of the members of the Committee at the discretion of the Committee. The estimates shall be based upon the average of what the full attendance of the Committee would have cost during the previous year. Any balance not expended for this purpose shall be returned to the L.A. The sum estimated must not be exceeded without authority from the L.A. Council. Grants for other definitely specified purposes may be made if sanctioned by the Council upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Communications upon Branch matters shall be made by means of the Association's journal. Until a given date each month an agreed minimum space in the ensuing number of the Association's journal shall be kept at the disposal of each Branch Hon. Secretary, who will be expected to contribute news from his Branch as well as notices and reports of meetings.

(j) The Branch Committees shall establish such sub-branches as may be necessary in order to provide ample opportunities for the meeting of members, the rules of such sub-branches to be approved by the Library Association

## Recommendations

Council. The Branch Committees shall also organize Students' Sections, the rules of such Students' Sections to be approved by the Library Association Council.

(k) The Branch Committee shall include official representation of (i) every sub-branch formed for convenience within the larger unit; (ii) any sections having their own organization in the area.

(l) The Branch Committees, directly and/or through the Sub-branches, shall also organize such meetings, etc., as may be desirable in order to provide facilities for members of sections residing in each Area, and co-operation between Branches.

(m) The Branch Committees shall also organize such meetings, etc., as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the junior members and Student Members (see later) within the Branch and shall, with the approval and co-operation of the Education or other appropriate Committee of the Library Association, organize classes, visits, etc., and in other ways assist in providing facilities for professional education.

(n) The members of each Branch shall annually elect one or more of their own members to represent the Branch on the Council of the Library Association in accordance with the following schedule:

One representative where the membership is less than 750.

Two representatives where the membership exceeds 750 and is less than 1,500.

Three representatives where the membership exceeds 1,500.

No Branch shall have more than three direct representatives whatever its membership. Such member or members need not at the time of election be a member or members of the Branch Committee, but shall become so *ipso facto*, during his or their period of service on the L.A. Council. For the purpose of determining the number of representatives to be elected in a Branch, the membership figures of the latest annual report shall be taken as the standard.

(o) The election of Branch representatives shall be carried out under the supervision and control of the L.A. Council. Only members who are entitled under the Bye-laws to vote for national members of the Council of the L.A. shall be entitled to vote for Branch Councillors. Branch Councillors shall not be considered as delegates from their Branches or require any mandate from their Branches in voting upon any matters which may come before the Council.

## COUNCIL

(a) Amalgamation shall be followed by a completely new election, so that the revised organization can come into force without complicated schemes for gradual alterations. The Officers (President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Legal Adviser) shall be nominated by the retiring Council.

(b) One Vice-President shall be nominated by the Council, and shall normally succeed to the Presidency at the end of his term of office as Vice-President. When necessary the Vice-President may be elected for a period of two years. In the absence of the President he shall preside over the meetings of the Council.

## Recommendations

(c) There shall be three Past-Presidents, i.e. each Past-President shall serve a further three years on the Council without submitting his name to ballot, and then automatically retire to give place to the Immediate Past-President, but is then eligible for election as a Branch or National Councillor in the same manner as other members.

(d) There shall be three Officers (Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Legal Adviser) nominated by the Council.

(e) In addition to the foregoing (b), (c), and (d), the Council shall consist of Branch Councillors, National Councillors, three representatives of Institutions to be nominated by the Council, and Sectional Representatives.

(f) The number of Councillors of the Library Association elected by the whole of the members (herein called National Councillors), shall be reduced to eighteen, such members to be elected in accordance with existing Bye-laws, excepting that there shall be no division of Councillors into "London" and "Country." These shall hold office for three years.

(g) The election of National Councillors and the election of Branch Councillors shall take place at one and the same time and in accordance with the Regulations for the Conduct of the Election enacted by the Council. No member may be nominated on the same occasion for election as both a National Councillor and a Branch Councillor, and if a member is nominated for both he shall inform the Secretary of the category in which he desires to be a candidate and the Secretary shall inform his nominators accordingly. Branch Councillors shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election.

(h) The Council will, as heretofore, be empowered to establish Sections and to afford such Sections such representation on the Council as may be determined. It is understood that the existing University and Research Section and County Libraries Section shall continue as heretofore and shall be given each two representatives on the Council, that the Library Association Council may at its discretion establish further sections and grant sectional representation to a total not exceeding six persons, and that the Library Association Council may as heretofore co-opt three representatives of Institutions.

Note.—The Council will thus consist of:

President . . . . .	1
Vice-President . . . . .	1
Three immediate Past-Presidents . . . . .	3
Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Legal Adviser	3
Nationally elected Councillors . . . . .	18
Branch Councillors . . . . .	14 (approx.)
Authority Representatives . . . . .	3
Sectional Representatives . . . . .	6
	—
	49
	—

## Recommendations

(i) A proviso that members *must* serve on at least two standing committees should be inserted in the L.A. Standing Orders.

(j) The following additional Bye-law is recommended:

"If any member of the Council shall be absent from the meetings of the Council and/or its standing committees for three successive meetings without submitting reasons which are considered sufficient by the Council, such member shall cease to be a member of the Council and its Committees and shall not be eligible for re-election until the next Annual Election. Any vacancy arising from the operation of this clause shall be filled in the manner prescribed in the Bye-laws."

## MEMBERSHIP

(a) After the appointed day, no person who is engaged in library work, either full time or part time, paid or otherwise, shall be admitted to membership (other than Student Membership) of the Library Association unless he or she has either attained the age of 21 or has passed the Intermediate examination of the Library Association. All who are, however, members of the Library Association on the appointed day, shall be allowed to retain their membership.

The lowest rate of subscription for members (other than corresponding members) shall be £1 15.

Any existing member who is on the appointed day under 25, or whose salary is less than £150 per annum, may have the option of transferring to Student Membership unless he is a Registered Fellow or Associate.

(b) The Association shall form a new category of Student Membership. Student Membership shall be open to those who, not having passed the Intermediate Examination of the Association, are:

(i) engaged in full-time paid library work and have not attained the age of 25;

(ii) students at approved schools of librarianship who have not attained the age of 25;

(iii) part-time and voluntary workers, but only at the discretion of the Library Association Council;

(iv) existing members, not being on the Register, whose salary does not exceed £150 per annum who elect to transfer.

Student members must become Members before election to the Register, but otherwise shall enjoy all the normal privileges of full membership excepting that they shall not be entitled to vote for the election of the Councillors and officers of the Library Association or to vote at the Business Meetings of the Association, but they may vote for and serve on Branch and Sub-branch Committees.

The subscription for Student Membership shall be 10s. 6d. (For details of the suggested constitution of the Students' Section see Appendix C.)

(c) "Transitional" members of the Association as at the date of the new

## Recommendations

agreement shall continue in membership under present conditions, excepting in so far as such conditions may be affected by the cessation of THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

*Explanatory Note.*—The following is an interpretation relating to membership voting rights and subscriptions:

(i) No one in membership of the Association prior to the appointed day and not a Registered Fellow or Associate shall lose his or her voting rights or be obliged to pay an increased subscription in order to retain such rights as a result of the recommendations embodied in the Joint-Committee proposals.

(ii) On and after the appointed day the minimum subscription for Registered Fellows and Associates shall be £1 1s. This shall apply to every one on the Register, including those at present paying a subscription of 10s. 6d. per annum by reason of receiving a salary of less than £150 per annum.

(iii) On and after the appointed day there will be five categories of membership, i.e. Honorary Fellows, Members, Corresponding Members, Institutional Members, and Student Members.

(iv) Full Members :

(a) All Registered Fellows and Associates irrespective of age or salary.

(b) All Members over 21 years of age and in receipt of a salary of more than £150 per annum.

(c) All Members over 25 years of age irrespective of salary received.

(v) Student Members :

(a) All persons who join the Association after the appointed date, who are engaged in full-time paid library work, are under 25 years of age, receive less than £150 per annum, and are not eligible for Registration as Fellows or Associates.

(b) Students at approved Schools of Librarianship who have not attained the age of 25 years.

(c) Part time and voluntary workers, but only at the discretion of the L. A. Council.

(d) Members on the appointed day under 25 years of age who are not registered as Fellows or Associates and who receive a salary of less than £150 per annum.

(vi) Subscriptions :

(a) All Registered Fellows and Associates and all full members receiving a salary of more than £150 per annum shall pay a minimum subscription of £1 1s. per annum. Full Members receiving less than £150 per annum shall continue to pay the reduced subscription of 10s. 6d. until such time as they become eligible for Registration or exceed the salary limit of £150.

(b) Student Members shall pay a subscription of 10s. 6d. per annum as long as they remain in this category of membership.

(c) Transitional members shall continue to pay their present rate of subscription.

(vii) Voting Rights :

(a) All Full Members and all Members of the Students' Sections who were

## Recommendations

*members of the Association prior to the appointed day shall have full voting rights and privileges.*

*(b) Student Members in groups (a), (b), and (c) of clause (v) above shall not be allowed to vote for the election of Councillors and Officers of the L.A. or to vote at the Business Meetings of the Association, but may vote for and serve on the Branch and Sub-branch Committees.*

*(c) Transitional members shall continue as at present to have full voting rights.*

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

### *Correspondence Courses*

Correspondence Courses shall be continued by the Library Association without increased cost to members, so long as the present educational organization remains in force.

### *Funds*

(a) The general balance (including divisional balances) of the A.A.L. fund shall be handed over at amalgamation to form a scholarship or prize fund for members of the Students' Sections.

(b) The A.A.L. and L.A. Benevolent Funds shall be amalgamated, set aside and used solely for relief of indigent members, their relatives or dependents. The said Fund shall be administered by two trustees and a standing committee of the Council. At least one trustee shall be a non-councillor. Both trustees shall serve on the Fund Committee.

### *Library*

(a) The A.A.L. Library shall be handed over as it stands and the sum of £100 from the general funds of the L.A. shall be added to the Scholarship Fund.

(b) The L.A. shall maintain a loans service similar to that at present in force in the A.A.L. Section.

### *Publications*

(a) Existing stocks of A.A.L. Publications (THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT, A.A.L. Series, etc.) shall be taken over and a sum of £100 from the general funds of the L.A. shall be added to the Scholarship Fund. Stocks shall be sold at prices not exceeding those now charged.

(b) THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT and the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD shall be amalgamated (possibly under a new title), retaining the best features of each.

### *Records*

Minute books and account books of the A.A.L. shall be preserved in the L.A. archives.



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### *General*

(a) Committees of the L.A. Council shall be empowered and encouraged to co-opt from members at large, so that the best talent is secured irrespective of membership of Council.

(b) The following additional Bye-law, D. 9, is recommended:

"Any decision of the Annual or other General Meeting shall be submitted to a poll of the members if notice be given by six members present at the meeting of their intention to submit, within twenty-eight days of such meeting, to the Secretary, a written request for such a poll signed by at least 100 members of the Association. A poll so demanded shall be taken in accordance with general directions given from time to time by the Council but not later than six weeks from the time of receipt of the necessary request and signatures."

### FINAL STEPS TO UNIFICATION

It is understood that as soon as the requisite amendments of and additions to the Bye-laws of the Library Association have been agreed by the members of the Library Association and sanctioned by the Privy Council, immediate steps shall be taken by the Council and members of the Association of Assistant Librarians to terminate the existence of that Association, such termination to have effect on an appointed date which shall be the 31st day of December next following the date upon which the aforesaid Bye-laws are approved by the Privy Council.

## APPENDIX A

### *Schedule of Suggested Branches*

1. North-western Branch. Lancashire, Cheshire, and the Isle of Man.
2. Northern Branch. Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland, the Cleveland District of Yorkshire, together with Barrow-in-Furness.
3. Yorkshire Branch. Yorkshire (except the Cleveland District).
4. North Midland Branch. Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, and North Staffordshire.
5. West Midland Branch. Herefordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, South Staffordshire, Oxfordshire.
6. Eastern Branch. Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Huntingdonshire, Buckinghamshire, and the portions of Essex and Hertfordshire which are outside the Metropolitan Police Area.
7. South-eastern Branch. Sussex, Hampshire, and Berkshire, and the portions of Kent and Surrey which are outside the Metropolitan Police Area.
8. South-western Branch. Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire.

## Recommendations

9. Wales and Monmouthshire Branch. The whole of Wales, together with Monmouthshire.

10. The Metropolitan Branch. The London Boroughs, Middlesex, the portions of Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, and Surrey which lie *within* the Metropolitan Police Area.<sup>1</sup>

11. Scottish Branch. Scotland.

12. Northern Ireland Branch. Northern Ireland.

<sup>1</sup> The Metropolitan Police Area includes all parishes within a radius of 15 miles from Charing Cross. The following library systems are included :

All London Boroughs.

Middlesex.

Hertfordshire: Watford, Cheshunt.

Essex: Walthamstow, Leyton, Ilford, East Ham, West Ham, Barking, Dagenham, Romford.

Kent: Erith, Bexley, Dartford, Bromley, Sevenoaks.

Surrey: Croydon, Mitcham, Wimbledon, Richmond, Kingston, Surbiton.

## APPENDIX B

### Definitions

*Branch.* One of not more than twelve territorial groupings of members, of which the total will cover the whole of the British Isles. Each Branch will elect a Committee, and will have direct representation on the Library Association Council, and will be responsible for the organization of meetings and the local furtherance of the objects of the Association.

*Sub-branch.* A Branch may be divided into Sub-branches for convenience in organizing meetings, and sufficient sub-branches should be formed to enable all members to meet frequently without undue outlay in fares or travelling time. Inter-branch functions would be encouraged.

*Member.* *Institutional Members* as at present.

*Personal Members* (except certain present members) must be 21 years of age. Non-librarians may become members under 21, but would pay the full standard subscription.

*Corresponding Members* as at present.

*Student Members* are those engaged in library service but under 21 years of age. They pay a reduced subscription and have all the privileges of full membership except that they may not be on the Register or vote for the Council or at the Annual Business Meeting. Student membership *may* be retained until the age of 25 unless election to the Register is sought.

*Retired Members* either on marriage or superannuation to continue at the reduced rates now in force. Members who retire from library service

## Recommendations

may be allowed to choose the Branch of which they may be members irrespective of residence.

*Local Members* must not be engaged in library service and may only participate in Branch affairs.

*Councillor.* Branches will have Committees, so that only the Library Association will have a Council and a President. Nationally elected Councillors hold office for three years ; all others for one year.

## APPENDIX C

### *Suggested Constitution of the Students' Section*

Every Branch Committee to take the necessary steps to inaugurate a Students' Section in the Branch.

In the event of any Branch Committee failing to take such action any twelve members (eligible for membership of the Students' Section) may submit a written request to the Branch Committee for the formation of such a Section. The Branch Committee must give effect to such a request.

The affairs of the Students' Section in each Branch shall be administered by a Committee elected by and from the members of the Section.

A member of this Committee shall represent the Section on the Branch Committee, whereon he shall have full voting powers and other rights.

The Branch Committee shall nominate one of their number to serve, *in a consultative capacity only*, on the Committee of the Students' Section, this representative to be one who has taken a special interest in those matters specially concerning the interests of the younger members.

Such expenses as may be required for the Students' Section in each Area shall be included in detail in the Branch estimates. The administrative work of the National Co-ordinating Committee of Students' Sections shall be carried out by headquarters.

To effect a link between the various Students' Section groups a Students' Section National Committee shall be established, consisting of one representative from each of the Students' Section Committees in the Branches.

Two members of this Students' Section National Committee shall be nominated to represent the Section on the Committee of the L.A. responsible for the welfare of the Students' Section.

Similarly, two members of this L.A. Committee, specially selected for their knowledge of and interest in student affairs, shall serve, *in a consultative capacity only*, on the Students' Section National Committee.

The Publications Committee of the L.A. to be requested to give special and sympathetic consideration to the members of this Section in connexion with the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD, both as readers and contributors.



Library Science

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# The **Library Assistant**

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